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Dr. Jane Henney,
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Drugs and Livestock

Sonora, California, June 14, 2000

Dear Dr. Henney,

Please, heed the recommendations of the credible scientific community, rather than the "tobacco science" of special interest groups such as the Farm Bureau. Do your part to keep our foodstuffs wholesome.

1. **Antibiotics.** The development of resistant bacteria in livestock lessens our ability to confront disease in humans with readily available antibiotics. The useful life of pharmaceuticals keeps getting shorter. We can't rely on a continuous flow of new antibiotics. As you know, Europe banned human-used antibiotics in animal feed in 1998. It is high time the U.S. followed suit.

2. **Hormones.** The use of hormones in livestock is totally irresponsible. We are playing dice with human health. Added to the unavoidable chemical intake from other sources, direct consumption, especially by children, of hormones and hormone mimics, is the most obvious cause of our high cancer rates, obesity and early puberty.

3. **Organic.** We must insist that food so labeled is really produced in the most natural way possible, without man-made chemicals, in ecologically responsible systems and, in the case of livestock, in a manner that reflect our standards of decency, in housing, transport and slaughter. This is not the case today! Organic labeling must be enforced responsibly.

We hope that you will address these three issues in a responsible and effective way.

Sincerely,

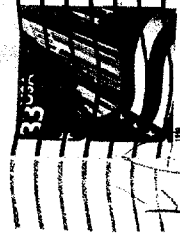
Paolo and Janet Maffei

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